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PRESS RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Peter Kinder Backs Mentoring Initiative at NLGA Convention

Resolution modeled after Amachi Program

Williamsburg, Virginia- Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder attended the National Lieutenant Governors Association's annual conference, and presented a resolution that championed the use of mentoring programs in all states. Kinder suggested that states use the Missouri Model as a guide and then adapt it to the needs of each individual state. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The conference is an opportunity for Lieutenant Governors across the nation to come together and share their stories of successful projects that have been implemented in their own states with each other.

"A wonderful seed planted right here in Missouri is now to bear fruit all across America. See what happens when we all work together, reaching across party lines to do what is good and right for the people," said Kinder. He added, "In this way, Missouri has become a pioneer in encouraging other states to use mentoring programs in order to keep at-risk youth from becoming another statistic."

The Missouri Model is a program that has three main provisions with which it is able to obtain state and federal funding in order to reach at-risk youth. The first part of the Missouri Model consists of the program called Amachi Missouri. This project which is run by Big Brother/ Big Sister, specifically deals with youth whose parents have been imprisoned. It provides adolescents with positive role models who will help them make more positive decisions.

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The second part of the Missouri Model is composed of the Missouri Mentor Initiative which was initiated and is run by Lieutenant Governor Kinder's office. The Mentor Initiative is a project where state employees are able to use one work hour of their week to mentor children in Missouri. Lastly, the Missouri Model is unique from anything else in that it creates a relationship between the Department of Corrections and mentoring programs. When inmates enter the correctional system, he or she is asked whether or not they want their children to be involved in one of the programs.